

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

a first suspension member;

a second suspension member having a through hole with a first tapered surface defining a first end of said through hole and a second tapered surface defining a second end of said through hole, said first and second tapered surfaces converging toward a center of said second suspension member, a cylindrical surface interposed between said first and second tapered surfaces and defining a central portion of said through hole;

a socket connected with said first suspension member;

a one-piece stud having a first end portion and a second end portion;

said socket supporting said first end portion of said stud in said socket for pivotal movement relative to said socket;

said second end portion of said stud projecting from said socket and completely through said through hole, said second end portion of said stud having a third tapered outer surface in engagement with said first tapered surface of said second suspension member; and

a fastener ~~on~~ secured to said second end portion of said stud, said fastener having a fourth tapered ~~outer~~ surface in engagement with said second tapered surface of said second suspension member, said second end portion of said stud extending completely through said fastener and said fastener causing said first and third tapered surfaces to be pressed together and causing said second and fourth tapered surfaces to be pressed together to secure said second suspension member relative to said second end portion of said stud;

said socket and said stud supporting said first suspension member for movement relative to said second suspension member.

a.  
(u.s.)

Claim 2 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said stud has a longitudinal central axis on which said third tapered ~~outer~~ surface ~~of said stud~~ is centered, said third tapered ~~outer~~ surface ~~of said stud~~ extending at a first angle relative to said axis, said first and second tapered surfaces of said second suspension member also extending at said first angle relative to said axis.

Claim 3 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein said fourth tapered surface ~~on said fastener~~ also extends at said first angle relative to said axis when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud.

Claim 4 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein said third tapered surface ~~on said stud~~ extends at a 45 degree angle to said axis.

Claim 5 (original) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said fastener is a nut and said second end portion of said stud has a threaded end portion for receiving said nut.

Claim 6 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second end portion of said stud has a cylindrical portion extending from said third tapered surface ~~of said stud~~ in a direction away from said first end portion of said stud, said cylindrical portion having a smaller diameter than the smallest diameter of said third tapered surface ~~of said stud~~, said cylindrical portion of said second end portion of said stud being spaced away from and extending parallel to said cylindrical surface of said second suspension member when said third tapered surface is in abutting engagement with said first tapered surface.

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(...)

Claim 7 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said stud has a longitudinal central axis on which said third tapered ~~outer surface of said stud~~ is centered, said third tapered ~~outer surface of said stud~~ extending at a first angle relative to said axis, said first and second tapered surfaces ~~of said second suspension member~~ also extending at said first angle relative to said axis, said fourth tapered surface ~~on said fastener~~ also extending at said

first angle to said axis when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud, said fastener being a nut and said second end portion of said stud having a threaded end portion for receiving said nut.

Claim 8 (currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 8 7 wherein said second end portion of said stud has a cylindrical portion extending from said third tapered surface ~~of said stud~~ in a direction away from said first end portion of said stud, said cylindrical portion having a smaller diameter than the smallest diameter of said third tapered surface ~~of said stud~~, said cylindrical portion of said second end portion of said stud being spaced away from and extending parallel to said cylindrical surface of said second suspension member when said third tapered surface is in abutting engagement with said first tapered surface.

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(amended)

Claim 9 (new) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second end portion of said stud including a terminal end having a hexagonal configuration, said terminal end being located on a side of said fastener opposite said first end portion when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud.